

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing multimedia presentations on demand in a near on demand environment, comprising:

pre-recording a beginning segment ~~for each one of a set of~~ multimedia presentations which ~~are~~ is broadcasted over at least two channels with a periodic interval being a difference of time between the start of the broadcast of said multimedia presentation over a first channel and a second different channel, each said beginning segment having a time duration at least as long as said periodic interval; and,

responsive to a user request for performance of ~~a selected one of~~ said multimedia presentations:

a) commencing playback of a said beginning segment corresponding to said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations, wherein said beginning segment is received unscrambled;

b) commencing recording of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations for which a broadcast has already begun, wherein the rest of said multimedia presentation, which is not said beginning segment of said multimedia presentation, is received scrambled; and,

c) switching from said playback of said beginning segment to playback of said recording of said rest of ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations when program content of said beginning segment corresponds with program content of said rest of said ~~selected one of~~ multimedia presentations contained in said recording, wherein the rest of said recorded multimedia presentation is unscrambled during the performance of at least one of step b and step c.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising pausing said multimedia presentation by stopping said playback of at least one of said beginning segment and said recording of said the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia

presentations while continuing to record ~~said~~ the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of rewinding and fast forwarding said playback of said recording of ~~said~~ the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations while continuing to record the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said beginning segment and the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations are recorded on a common storage medium.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said common storage medium is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk medium, an optical disk medium and an electronic storage medium.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising alternately reading from said common storage medium for said playback of said pre-recorded beginning segment and recording of the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations on said common storage medium.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising inhibiting playback of said recording of the rest of said ~~selected one of said~~ multimedia presentations after a presentation of said selected multimedia presentation is completed.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically pre-recording beginning segments upon initial activation of a multimedia system.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, responsive to at least one of a user request and an automatic signal, periodically updating beginning segments with new beginning segments corresponding to subsequent multimedia presentations.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said multimedia presentations are presented on one of the group consisting of a television display, a video display, a computer display, a personal digital assistant, a home theater system and an audio system.

11. (Currently amended) A system for providing multimedia presentations on demand in a near on demand environment, comprising:

a multimedia recorder configured for pre-recording a beginning segment for each of a set of multimedia presentations which ~~are~~ is broadcasted over at least two channels at a periodic interval being a difference of time between the start of the broadcast of said multimedia presentation over a first channel and a second different channel, each said beginning segment having a duration at least as long as said periodic interval; and,

a multimedia system controller operatively communicating with said multimedia recorder and causing said multimedia recorder to:

a) commence playback of a said beginning segment corresponding to a ~~selected one of~~ said multimedia presentations, wherein said beginning segment is received unscrambled;

b) commence recording of said ~~selected one of~~ said multimedia presentations for which a broadcast has already begun, wherein the rest of said multimedia presentation, which is not said beginning segment of said multimedia presentation, is received scrambled; and,

c) to switch from said playback of said ~~one of said~~ beginning segments to playback of a said recorded portion of said ~~selected one~~ rest of said multimedia presentations when said playback program content of said ~~one of said~~ beginning segments correlates to playback program content of said ~~selected~~ rest of said multimedia presentation contained in said recorded portion, wherein said rest of said recorded multimedia presentation is unscrambled during the performance of at least one of step b and c.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a user interface that receives user commands and communicates said user commands to said multimedia system controller.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said user interface comprises a menu of said multimedia presentations available to a user from which said user can select a multimedia presentation for performance.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising a control responsive to a user input that when activated pauses said multimedia presentation by stopping said playback of at least one of said beginning segment and said rest of said recorded multimedia presentation ~~portion~~ while continuing to record said ~~selected one of said~~ rest of said multimedia presentations.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a trick mode control responsive to a user input for causing a trick mode operation of said multimedia recorder, said trick mode comprising at least one of: slow motion; fast motion; fast forward; and rewind.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said multimedia recorder records said beginning segment and said ~~selected one of said~~ rest of said multimedia presentations on a common storage medium.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said common storage medium is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic disk medium, an optical disk medium and an electronic storage medium.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said multimedia system controller comprises an automatic recording function that causes said multimedia recorder to record said beginning segments upon initial activation of said system.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said multimedia system controller comprises an automatic update function that periodically updates ones of said beginning segments with a plurality of new unscrambled beginning segments corresponding to a subsequent set of multimedia presentations.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a receiver for receiving broadcasts of said selected one of said multimedia presentations.